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City of Winslow

Nabaja County, Arizona

March 3, 1939

Honorable R. T. Jones
Governor of Arizona
Phoenix, Arizona

My dear Governor Jones:

For the past several months we have received numerous requests for assistance by under-privileged people residing in the Winslow district, for groceries, fuel, clothing and the actual necessities of life. These people have in the past been fairly adequately taken care of by the County Welfare Board, but due to the lack of funds available for the Welfare Board to carry on, it is throwing these people on our mercy.

We have checked with the Winslow member of the County Welfare Board for the month of February and also the current month, and find that the allotment for the entire county for February was some \$1200.00 and that the allotment for this month has decreased to a mere \$705.00. We were informed that this condition has not been prevalent since the history of the relief program in this state as brought about by the depression. We have been advised that prior to June, 1937, adequate funds were allotted to this county and, of course, we were not besieged by people for assistance prior to that time. The past four months requests for assistance through us have become so great it is impossible for us to cope with this situation. You are no doubt acquainted with the fact that we are still faced with two and possibly three months more of fairly cold weather. This condition means that employment conditions will remain very limited. The approximate \$5.00 which can be allotted will not be more than a sufficient amount to purchase fuel, without anything left for groceries, etc.

We also have a condition here which is particularly aggravated due to the fact that we are located on a through highway (Highway 66). Transients come through our city, having a man, wife, two or three children in one party. They are hungry; they have no place to sleep; no funds with which to purchase gas and oil to continue their journey. There should be state funds to place these people back to their former homes, or the place from which they originated. In time they become professional tramp tourists seeing the entire country at the expense of local governments who feed them, sleep them, and provide gas for them to journey to the next town. Thus the local governments have found it necessary to care for a large number of transients for the past two or three years due to the fact that funds allotted to the County Welfare Department have not even been adequate to take care of the local resident cases.

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We are not registering any complaint regarding the administration of the Welfare program in this county by the County Welfare Board and its employees. We believe that the essential problem confronting us is lack of funds received monthly by that organization. We believe that it is the function entirely of the County Welfare Department to not only take care of all needy cases who are residents of this district, county and state, but also the responsibility of the County and State Welfare Department to care for all transient cases.

Our past contacts with various employees of the County Welfare Department and Board members lead us to believe that they wish to care for and possibly rehabilitate these needy cases, but are handicapped at the present time because of insufficiency of funds.

We wish that you as the Chief Executive of the State would see that necessary steps are taken whereby funds can be appropriated to the County Welfare Department whereby the present suffering and distress can be relieved in this district.

Respectfully,

D. B. Crozer

M a y o r.

Copies to:

Melvin Goodson, Speaker of House
Paul C. Keefe, President of Senate
O. L. Murray, Representative
R. L. Moore, Senator